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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Kathy J. O'Leary

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 15258-176-1US
Client Ref. No.: P.6623

*#8/Re. C.
R.I.H.
5/1/00*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Andreas Walder

Application No.: 09/082,309

Filed: May 20, 1998

For: METHOD FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF EXPANDABLE
PLASTICS GRANULATE

Examiner: Staicovici, S.

Art Unit: 1732

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

RECEIVED
MAY - 3 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 1999, Applicant is filing a Continuing Prosecution Application herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 16 and 19 as follows.

1 *Subj* 16. (Twice amended) A method, which does not use extruders, for the
2 production of expandable plastics granulate from a plastics melt and a fluid blowing agent that
3 is, when at a pressure within a predetermined pressure range, only partly soluble in the melt,
4 the method comprising the steps of: